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Approved For Release 2003/08/12 : CIA-RDP82-00457R014800080007-7 25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 1 December 1952

SUBJECT Shortage of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel in Eastern Germany

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. It was announced [redacted] that there would be a shortage of 27,000 tons of Diesel fuel in East Germany during August 1952. This shortage would endanger the harvest. [redacted] either the export quota was too high or considerable amounts of Diesel fuel are being required by the Soviet Army and the Volkspolizei. *

2. Gasoline and Diesel fuel are being supplied in the town area and rural district of Leipzig only for the unloading of railroad cars and for harvesting purposes. The Diesel fuel quota of the Taucha (N 52/E 31) substation of the communal motor pool (Autotransportgemeinschaft) was reduced from 7,000 kg to 1,400 kg per month. The free sale of fuel at HO-prices has been suspended. However, the large tank depots in Leipzig are filled to capacity. **

* [redacted] Comment. There is no shortage of raw materials for the production of gasoline and Diesel fuel in Eastern Germany. The crude oil imports from Misterdorf and the production of brown coal low temperature tar in East Germany are sufficient to enable the existing hydrogenation and refining installations as well as the distilling installations to operate at capacity. It has been reported that there is even a surplus production of brown coal low temperature tar which cannot be entirely processed during 1952. Therefore, the reasons [redacted] for the sudden shortage of gasoline and Diesel fuel are probably correct. Under the 1952 production plant, 27,000 tons of Diesel fuel would correspond to about 60 percent of the monthly production.

** [redacted] Comment. The reported restriction on the use of fuel in Leipzig, despite the full tanks in the depots, is probably due to the increased requirements for Diesel fuel during the Leipzig Fair.

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